

REMARKS

Claims 12-28 are presented for consideration. Claims 1-11 and 29-31 were previously withdrawn. Claim 25 is amended. No claim is cancelled.

The abstract is amended in accordance with the Office Action's request.

Claim 25 is amended to remove any 35 USC 112 rejections.

Claims 12-28 are currently rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yacoub, U.S. Pat. No. 6,452,692.

The Office Action begins by explaining that:

"Yacoub teaches a print server for print jobs printed on a networked printers. The user is capable of determining an available printer or having the server automatically determining the available printer (see abstract)."

Applicants respectfully point out that in the present invention, the "accessory computing device" (i.e. printer) is coupled as a periphery device to the client computing device, and is not one of multiple networked printers among which a user may select (or is selected automatically by a server).

Applicants further note that Yacoub's system, in general, describes the submission of printing attributes describing a print job. By contrast, the present invention recites that the server provides access to an application that in turn provides selectable access to a plurality of independent activities. As it would be understood, print attributes of a print job are not independent activities, but rather are integrally related to defining the print job. In others, in col. 5, lines 3-16 Yacoub lists some of his printer preferences as: print speed, quality of print image desired, and color or black-and-white selection. All of these preferences are attributes that describe the print job; they are not independent activities. For example, "print speed" is not a activity, but a description. Similarly, image quality is a descriptive characteristic, not an independent activity. Also, neither "color" nor "black-and-white" is an independent activities, but rather are descriptive properties of the print job. The point is that Yacoub does not provide a selection of independent activities, as is required in the present invention.

The Office Action also asserts that Yacoub shows providing a an accessory computing device coupled as a periphery device to said client computing device (see col. 7, lines 13-46, "Yacoub discloses a print job is sent to a printer connected to a user's machine". Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited excerpt clearly explains that the server maintains a map of the physical locations of each printer on its network and each client machine. Once a client machine has submitted a print job and desired options, the network server will identify all the printers capable of fulfilling the print job, determine the physical distance between each identified printer and the client machine that submitted the print job, and send the print job to the identified printer nearest to the client machine (Col. 7, lines 42-46). Clearly, all the printers on the network cannot be connected as periphery devices to the one client machine that submits the print job. Furthermore, since the network server has to calculate the distances between the client machines and the identified printers, it is self-evident that the identified printers are connected as periphery devices to the client machine.

The Office Action further asserts that Yacoub shows that the network server denies said client computing device access to any of said plurality of independent activities in response to said accessory computing device not being among said plurality of approved periphery devices (see col. 15, lines 19-55, Yacoub discloses a job is denied and an error message is sent to the server where and another printer is selected from the appropriate list of printers). Applicants respectfully disagree, and point out that the Yacoub's user has not been denied access. Rather the user's request has been accepted and a the server has embarked on looking for an appropriate printer. Furthermore, the present claims specifically refer to the (i.e. one) periphery device, and not to a group of networked printers. Also in Yacoub's system, as the Office Action explains, one printer may refuse (i.e. deny) a print job and send an error message (i.e. such as "out of paper") to the server, whereupon the server will try sending the print job to the next printer on its list. However, in this case, also, the user (i.e. not the server) is not being denied service by the server because the user's periphery printer is not among the server's list of approved printers. In fact, the user's periphery printer has not affect on the operation of Yacoub's system. Yacoub's

network server creates a list of networked printers capable of fulfilling the user's request, irrespective of whether they are connected as periphery devices or not. Indeed, if the user's own periphery connected printer cannot handle the task, the server would send print job to another printer on the network.

In regards to claims 13 and 14, applicants again respectfully point out that the present invention requires that the server identify the specific, one periphery device (i.e. specific printer) connected to the user's machine, and allow access only to the services associated with that one, specific periphery device. The cited excerpt merely states that Yacoub's server will accept any job from a user and then try one suitable printer after another until finding a printer that will accept the print job.

In regards to claim 15, Applicants respectfully point out that the cited excerpt clearly states that (col. 5, line 18-19), "the server automatically determines and selects the appropriate printer to print the job". Clearly, the user is not selecting any printer. Furthermore, the text of claim 15 require that the user identify the one, specific periphery device connected to the user. Contrary to the Office Action's assertion, claim 15 does not recite that the user (or server) selects among a list of printers identified as being capable of fulfilling a print job. Additionally, claim 15 requires that once the user has identified its periphery-connected printer, the server only accept service requests for services associated with the selected periphery device.

In reference to claim 17, the cited excerpt (col. 2, lines 44-52) merely state that the server's database of printer locations and printer capabilities may be updated. The cited excerpt also states that the server may distributes driver updates to the network servers. However, this excerpt does not teach or suggest that the server interrogates the printer, and uses the received information as part of the criteria necessary for determining independent activity may be associated with the printer.

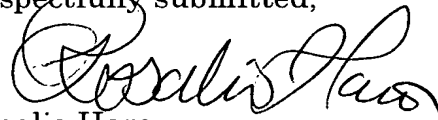
In reference to claim 18, the cited excerpt (col. 1, line 60 to col. 2, line 16) describe Yacoub's prior art problem. Specifically, Yacoub explains that in the prior art, the server has not idea what network printer is better suited for what

print job, and that a user must know ahead of time which networked printer to select for printing. By contrast, claim 18 requires that the client device interrogates its periphery-connected printer for performance capabilities, the send that information to the server. The server would then use the gathered information to determine what independent activities may be associated with that specific printer.

Again, the cited excerpt associated with claim 19 (col. 15, lines 19-55) merely describes the Yacoub's process for trying multiple printers until finding one that will accept a print job. By contrast, claim 19 states that the server first identify the specific periphery device attached to the client computing device. Once the specific periphery device is identified, the server provides the client computing device with a list of only the independent activities associated with its periphery device. This is clearly unrelated to the cited Yacoub excerpt.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalio Haro
Registration No. 42,633

Please address all correspondence to:

Epson Research and Development, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
150 River Oaks Parkway, Suite 225
San Jose, CA 95134
Phone: (408) 952-6000
Facsimile: (408) 954-9058
Customer No. 20178

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